

## Special Libyan envoy in Egypt

Cairo (R) — A special envoy of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi arrived in Cairo Tuesday for talks on reopening the Libyan-Egyptian border, closed during more than a decade of strained relations. Official sources identified the envoy as Ahmad Gaddafar Edidam, a cousin of Qaddafi, who has made several, official and unannounced visits to Egypt since President Hosni Mubarak took office in 1981. The border was closed after a brief frontier war in 1977 and Cairo has accused Libya of plotting sabotage attacks against it and of trying to kill Libyan exiles living in Egypt. But Mubarak held two recent, official and unannounced visits to Libya, and said afterwards the atmosphere between the neighbouring countries had improved. However he added that differences remained. Egyptian officials have said Cairo was preparing to reopen its border with Libya, although they denied a report by the Middle East News Agency (MENA) that border crossings were already open (see page 2).

# Jordan Times

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## King pays high tribute to independence festival

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday paid tribute to the organisers and participants of a grand festival held Monday as part of Jordan's Independence Day anniversary celebrations.

In a message of appreciation and thanks he sent to Education Minister Abdullah Nsour, the King voiced pride and satisfaction over the festival in which over 6,000 students took part with high-standard exercise and dance performance

against impressive backdrops. "Such well-organised and disciplined events embody the meaning of our pride and belonging," the King said. "Great efforts were made to the festival a success and they deserve from us every gratitude and appreciation," the King said.

The festival not only represented perfect planning and performance but also reflected the dedicated, untiring efforts made by its organisers, the King said.

"It has revived the hope of our nation to achieve a bright future and enhanced our confidence," he said. "It also reflected our children's national pride and resolve to play their role in confronting challenges posed in our development process," he added.

The King praised the Ministry of Education and all participants in the festival as well as all institutions which played a role in organising the event.



H.M. King Hussein

## Bankers welcome new exchange rules

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

AMMAN — Bankers and economists have cautiously welcomed the return of a flexible exchange rate as a move to foster trust in Jordan's economy.

But they said success would hinge on whether the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) had enough foreign currency to manage the market.

"This is a step in the right direction," economist Riad Al Khouri said Tuesday. "But the Central Bank has to take other complementary moves like liberalising foreign exchange laws to regain people's trust."

Central Bank Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi

announced Monday that the CBI was linking the dinar once again to a trade-based basket of foreign currencies.

The bank would abandon its rigid exchange rate — frozen at 540 fils to the dollar February 8 — and resume setting the rates daily, he said.

The dinar was set at 570 fils to the dollar Monday.

Nabulsi said the Central Bank would intervene in the market when necessary and would supply foreign exchange to banks to meet recognised needs. Priority would be given to students abroad and to importers of food and industrial supplies.

"We are optimistic that the Central Bank has some hard currency reserves which could be spared for our use," said a

banker. "Stability will only be achieved if the Central Bank physically intervenes in the market."

Another banker struck a pessimistic note. "The Central Bank would need enough money to back the daily rates and the operations of banks," she said. "Whatever they have now is not enough as they face other pressing priorities like setting official imports and paying government debts."

But bankers and economists generally expect Arab countries to offer financial support to Jordan after price riots in April.

"What can restore confidence is more Arab aid and adherence to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) economic reforms package," economist Fahd Al Fanek told

## Shelling rocks Beirut

## 9 shot and wounded in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least nine Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Tuesday, one day after Jewish settlers attacked a West Bank village and shot dead a 16-year-old Palestinian girl.

Also Tuesday, leaders of the Jewish settlement of Ariel, set up in the occupied West Bank in 1977, announced that Palestinians who work there will have to wear tags identifying them as "foreign workers."

Nine Palestinians were shot and wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories, seven in the Gaza Strip and two in the West Bank, hospital officials said.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said black smoke billowed over Souq Al-Ghbar. Shells fell at the rate of two a minute near Aoun's already battered presidential palace in the suburb of Baabda, reports said.

Cypriot police announced Monday they had arrested six men with Lebanese passports for allegedly plotting to kill "a prominent Lebanese" by shooting down his helicopter with a surface-to-air missile over Larnaca airport.

Political and security sources in Lebanon said Aoun was the target. (See page 2).

**Lebanese responsibility**

King Hassan II of Morocco said Tuesday that the solution to the Lebanon crisis is in the hands of the Lebanese and that a committee of Arab heads of state was created during the Casablanca summit only to help.

Hassan, speaking at a news conference in Rabat about the summit, said the Lebanese must be patient. He said many parties both inside and outside Lebanon did not want the conflict to end.

**Clash reported**

A patrol of Israeli soldiers and allied Lebanese militiamen Tuesday shot and killed a guerrilla in the second clash in Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon in three days, the army said.

An Israeli army official said a guerrilla dressed in military camouflage was spotted early Tuesday morning east of the town of Marjayoun. Army sources said the victim was a Palestinian trying to infiltrate into Israel.

Those arrested in the settlements of Eilon Moreh and Itzhak near Nablus included Jewish religious seminary students.

Many Jewish settlers have launched a series of vigilante raids, burning cars, breaking windows, heating and sometimes shooting Palestinians.

Israeli commentators say the scope of the violence between the settlers and Palestinians was unprecedented. Some raised fears a major bloodletting could occur if "foreign workers."

The attack Monday was the bloodiest so far by settlers opposed to the 17-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

"They fired like madmen."

Israeli police arrested 30 Israelis in the West Bank Tuesday in a hunt for settlers who rampaged through an Arab village and shot dead a teenage girl, reports said.

The Hebrew-language Haaretz daily quoted what it said were senior military sources as saying the raid was "clear provocation

that (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir is not ready for peace," he said.

It was up to Baker, he said, "to forge a policy that would persuade Shamir to accept balance mutual security, that would eliminate the walls of hatred that Shamir is building every day, and remove the obstacles that are blocking peace negotiations."

Hassan's proposal came as the nearly 18-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip escalated with Israeli settlers attacking Arab villages.

Hassan said last week's Arab summit conference in Casablanca had transformed the Palestinian peace strategy into an Arab peace initiative by adopting the PLO approach.

He said this "eliminated another pretext used by Shamir who had told the Americans he wanted a peace initiative acceptable to Arabs, not the Palestinians alone."

Appealed to Israel Tuesday not to waste time in responding to Arab peace moves.

The whole Arab World had decided to take the path of peace, the king told a news conference in Rabat on the results of last week's Arab summit in Casablanca.

"Now it is up to the other party (Israel) to respond. I say it has no reason to play for time, for every movement that passes is in favour of the Arabs and not in favour of Israel," he said.

King Hassan said the summit had reiterated demands for a Palestinian state with its own frontiers, flag and sovereignty.

"If there were any concessions they were not either on fundamental issues or aims, but rather a question of flexibility to better follow the international climate and avoid appearing negative," he said.

The international climate had evolved in favour of the Palestinians during the past year, he said, notably through Arafat's visits to France and Spain and messages of support sent by world leaders to the Casablanca summit.

**Appeal to Israel**

King Hassan of Morocco

## King calls for fresh turn in information system

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday called on representatives of the local information media to open channels of dialogue and communication with the citizens to boost mutual trust between officials and the public and exercise accuracy and honesty in dealing with issues that concern the citizen and country.

In a several-hour meeting with representatives of the media held at the royal palace, King Hussein explained the developments that took place at last week's extraordinary Arab summit and issues facing the Arab World, foremost among them the Palestinian

His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday addresses a gathering of representatives of the information media in Jordan (Petra photo).

issue, the Lebanese conflict and the post-ceasefire situation between Iraq and Iran.

The King said Egypt's formal readmittance into the Arab League had allowed it to resume its rightful place in the Arab Nation.

The King expressed hope that the next Arab summit, which is expected to take place in Saudi Arabia, would be more successful in resolving issues that were not completely solved during the Casablanca summit.

King Hussein said that along with the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, the Arab Cooperation Council

(ACC) — which groups Jordan with Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen — form the corner stones in support of the Arab League and serves to boost Arab solidarity.

In a frank and extensive exchange of ideas with members of the press, the King listened to various views over the general situation in the Kingdom, especially in journalism. The exchange of ideas covered means of enhancing journalists' performance in order to better serve the citizens in communicating their grievances to responsible officials.

The King also called on representatives of the media to concentrate on Jordanian youth in identifying their aims and aspirations, portraying their contributions to society and encouraging their role in developing the country.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan also discussed with media representatives Jordan's information policy and its political, social and professional aspects, in addition to the role of the press in boosting confidence among citizens.

The informal meeting comes in the context of guidelines issued to the month-old government to liberalise the local media in the larger framework of calm and responsible dialogue.

## NATO heals nuclear rift, poses challenge to East bloc

BRUSSELS (R) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leaders healed a rift over nuclear weapons Tuesday and ended their summit on a triumphant note with a challenge to the Soviet bloc to create a new political order in Europe.

Buoyed by unanimous support for President George Bush's dramatic proposals to cut U.S. combat troops and other conventional forces, the allies forged a deal allowing negotiations with Moscow on short-range nuclear forces (SNF).

But they said that for the foreseeable future, NATO would need SNF missiles and its other nuclear weapons to prevent war in Europe.

"We want to overcome the painful division of Europe, which we have never accepted. We want to move beyond the post-war period... we seek to shape a new order of peace in Europe," the summit's final declaration said.

"This is an excellent birthday present," a beaming West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told a news conference after the two-day meeting, called to mark NATO's 40th anniversary.

Upstaged by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's disarmament proposals and at odds internally over West Germany's call for SNF negotiations soon, the leaders had come to Brussels in desperate need of a summit success.

And despite some differing interpretations of the SNF deal, all hailed the outcome as a triumph.

"I think that the successful

results of this summit have given us a double hit (on) both conventional and short-range nuclear forces," Bush told a news conference.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Tuesday welcomed Bush's proposals, including a 20 per cent cut in U.S. combat troops and a 15 per cent cut in aircraft and military helicopters and a one-year deadline for reaching an agreement on conventional forces reduction talks (CFE) in Vienna.

"Certainly time will be needed to examine them in detail and finally determine what the position of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact will be," Shevardnadze said arriving in Vienna for a human rights conference.

"But my first impression is that it is a serious step in the right direction."

The summit also issued a 10-page final declaration, praising the changes under way in the Soviet bloc, calling for walls between East and West to be torn down, and seeking expanded East-West trade and economic relations.

The statement called for closer East-West cooperation on drugs, terrorism and the environment and called on Moscow to work with NATO countries to find diplomatic solutions to conflicts around the world.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said the outcome of the summit was proof of the alliance's vigour in middle age.

"You can see that this is an

alliance on the move and it clearly has a future as important as its past... I am optimistic that we have never had a better chance or opportunity to imprint our mark on the future," he told a news conference.

French President Francois Mitterrand acknowledged that the Auguries for the meeting had not been good.

"It's true that we might have feared a crisis," he told reporters. "But nothing is ever settled without a crisis. We can call it a success."

Kohl and his foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, fought a long battle to persuade the alliance to agree to talks on SNF, most of which are based on West German soil.

The compromise hammered out by foreign ministers in a marathon bargaining session overnight allows negotiations for a "partial reduction" in SNF missiles — with the word "partial" underlined — once a CFE agreement to reduce Warsaw Pact superiority in conventional weapons is being implemented.

None of NATO's SNF missiles would be removed until all the CFE cuts had been made. The United States will meanwhile continue research and development for a new SNF missile, though a decision to deploy it will wait until 1992.

Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the last leader to accept the deal, said it meant that SNF forces would not be eliminated from Europe altogether.

## Chinese students, workers unite

PEKING (Agencies) — Protesting Chinese students, their numbers and morale boosted by a "Statue of Liberty" unveiled on Tuesday evening after a rough 10-metre-high replica of the Statue of Liberty was unveiled earlier in the day at the northern end of the square.

The polystyrene and plaster statue of the students' determination to continue with their defiance of authority despite government statements in recent days which indicated an ideological crackdown was imminent.

Leaders of the unofficial Peking Workers' Autonomous Federation, which backs the students, said the workers had been taken away by police Monday night and early Tuesday morning, apparently for participating in the protest.

"If there were any concessions they were not either on fundamental issues or aims, but rather a question of flexibility to better follow the international climate and avoid appearing negative," he said.

The international climate had evolved in favour of the Palestinians during the past year, he said, notably through Arafat's visits to France and Spain and messages of support sent by world leaders to the Casablanca summit.

**Appeal to Israel**

King Hassan of Morocco

The number of students, which had dwindled in the past week, swelled again to over 30,000 on Tuesday evening after a rough 10-metre-high replica of the Statue of Liberty was unveiled earlier in the day at the northern end of the square.

The appearance of the replica coincided with attacks by Communist Party hardliners on "bourgeois liberalism," a phrase previously used to denigrate Western democratic ideals.

Student leaders, who have vowed to remain at Tiananmen at least until a June 20 meeting of the standing committee of China's parliament, said they were still registering volunteers for a hunger strike to be staged this week.

People pressed around the replica taking photographs of each other, curious and excited, recreating some of the atmosphere of pro-democracy demonstrations earlier this month before hardline Premier Li Peng declared martial law in Peking May 20.

Rebellious citizens stopped

troops entering Peking to implement martial law. But the city gradually returned to near-normality as hardliners in the leadership appeared to be winning a power struggle against reformists more sympathetic in the demonstrators.

Communist Party hardliners who reportedly have wrested control of the leadership in a power struggle sparked by the student protests, have taken the stance that students are well-intentioned but non-students who are mis-leading them would be punished.

Already, workers who have joined demonstrations or supported the movement are being fired or having their pay docked. Others are being threatened with losing their jobs.

Several hundred students who came to the capital from outside Peking said they were to return home Tuesday to spread the word of the students' dramatic appeal for a freer and more open China.

A few thousand continued living in a squatters' camp in Tiananmen Square, refusing to end their occupation.

Troops brought to Peking to enforce martial law continued to camp on the outskirts of the capital, but remained off the streets.

Egyptian-Libyan border to reopen after 10 years

## Mubarak urges united Arab effort for peace

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak spoke Tuesday of a new spirit of cooperation among Arab states and urged them to unite to end lingering Middle Eastern conflicts and bloodshed.

Mubarak told parliament that many regional leaders have agreed in discussions as recent as last week's Arab League summit meeting in Casablanca that finding peace depends on the Arabs working together.

"Why don't we all cooperate and continue the road to peace with united thought and determination?" Mubarak asked in an hour-long report on the summit meeting. "The bloodshed and continued destruction will not end without efforts towards peace."

Mubarak said the main regional issues that must be dealt with are the Palestinians' problem, the civil war in Lebanon and the impasse in the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

## Cyprus holds 6 in possible Aoun attack

NICOSIA (R) — A Cypriot court ordered six men with Lebanese passports held Tuesday while police investigated an alleged plot to kill Lebanese army commander Michel Aoun with anti-aircraft missiles.

Nicosia district court Judge Andreas Krambis remanded the men in custody for eight days to allow police to prepare charges against them after shoulder-held missiles and arms were seized.

A police spokesman earlier said a prominent Lebanese had been the target of an assassination plot.

Security sources in Beirut identified the target as Major-General Aoun, the head of a military government locked in a bitter feud with a civilian government for power in Lebanon.

The sources said an assassin-

ation squad had planned to shoot down Aoun's helicopter when he arrived at Cyprus to fly on to Morocco for last week's Arab League summit. Aoun did not go.

Five of the men were arrested by police after amateur divers spotted two Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles wrapped in plastic in the sea near Larnaca airport.

A police raid on a Larnaca apartment Monday netted triggers for the SAM-7 missile launchers, assault rifles, ammunition, hand grenades and other equipment.

The sixth man had been held by police Friday after he was spotted acting suspiciously on the Larnaca seafront.

Judge Krambis said police had sufficient evidence to link the men with the arms cache. He said

active role in the peace process." He said Egypt's relations with all Arab, African and Islamic countries were "normal and well."

Egypt opened its borders with neighbouring Libya Monday for the first time in more than a decade.

At the same time, Libya's official news agency JANA distributed a conciliatory dispatch, quoting the Egyptian president as saying Qadhafi was receptive to his ideas at their summit meeting.

Passport, customs, security and health officials have been sent to the border coastal city of Mersa Matruh to await an order to open the border.

Mubarak had said in the past he would not reopen the border until flights between Cairo and Tripoli were resumed as a sign of Libya's good intentions.

Mubarak urged all Egyptians, including political opponents, to close ranks to try to overcome the

country's economic problems. Mubarak said Egypt now had better chances of winning investment from other Arab countries.

"The new Arab solidarity will promote further economic cooperation which will lead to home development," Mubarak said.

But he said unity at home was essential to cope with serious economic problems, including heavy foreign debts, rising prices and food shortages.

"I call on all the Egyptian people, whatever their differences or views, to unite in tackling our problems," Mubarak said.

"We must all work hard, hands together, leaving aside local strife and tensions, wasting no time in futile arguments."

Opposition groups, especially Muslim fundamentalists seeking imposition of Islamic laws, have attempted to cash in on the government's economic difficulties.



Some of the estimated 20,000 Muslims who protested in London Saturday hang author Salman Rushdie in effigy during a demonstration against the publication of his book "The Satanic Verses."

## Rafsanjani lauds anti-Rushdie protest

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani Tuesday praised Muslims who joined a demonstration in London calling for the death of author Salman Rushdie.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted Rafsanjani as telling the Majlis, the Iranian parliament, "The Muslims, in support of the imam's fatwa, embraced danger and made a presence that was unprecedented in recent decades."

Iranians refer to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as the imam or spiritual leader.

Khomeini issued a religious decree Feb. 14 that called for the death of Rushdie, a British citizen, for blaspheming against Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

The move led to a break in relations between Britain and Iran.

On Saturday, an estimated 20,000 Muslim from around Britain demonstrated in central London. Police said there were 84 arrests and six police officers were injured.

Demonstrators clashed with police outside the houses of parliament.

The protesters were demanding a change in Britain's blasphemy laws so that they can challenge Rushdie's novel in court.

"If the West attempts to stand against the Muslims' recent move, they may start a new one," Rafsanjani said, referring to the demonstration.

"Muslims, too, by observing legal standards and stripping the enemies of pretenses, should restore their rights," he said.

Rushdie, born of Muslim parents in India, has been in hiding in England since Khomeini made the death threat.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### GCC ministers discuss open press

BAHRAIN (R) — Information ministers of six Gulf Arab states began talks in Bahrain Tuesday on how to become more open and accessible to the media. "We want to be more open to the local and international press by speaking more freely," said Bahrain Information Minister Tariq Al Moayyed told Reuters. Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) "want to make sure the right picture is projected, and that channels of information are quickly available as events are happening," he added. They aimed to agree on "a common policy to be projected through the foreign media," he said. The GCC groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in an economic and political alliance. Censorship is rare, but newspapers in all six states generally avoid publishing stories on sensitive issues and officials contacted by reporters rarely speak on the record.

### France to stay in Gulf

NICOSIA (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand was quoted as saying in remarks published Monday that France would maintain its naval presence in the Gulf until instability in the region ended. "France, like Oman, attaches top priority to freedom of navigation in international waters... and its naval presence in the area will continue until all sources of instability vanish," the Oman News Agency reported. Mitterrand said as saying. Mitterrand's interview with the agency, received in Nicosia, was published on the eve of a three-day visit to France by Sultan Qaboos of Oman — his first official trip to the country. The French president said discussions with Sultan Qaboos would cover Palestinian and Lebanese problems as well as the situation in the Gulf where a U.N.-brokered ceasefire has been in force since last August.

### Tremors continue to rock S. Iran

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Strong aftershocks continued to shake Khoukliyeh-Boyer Ahmad province in south Iran Monday, damaging buildings but causing no casualties. Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said earthquakes registering 4.2 and 4.6 on the Richter Scale rocked the town of Dogonbadan and nearby villages overnight. It said several government buildings and public places were damaged but no casualties were reported. The area, about 600 kilometres south of Tehran, had been jolted by a series of tremors Saturday and Sunday and several village houses were destroyed. The strongest measured 5.9 on the Richter Scale. IRNA said that Gascharan province was hit by 11 tremors during the past 48 hours, and that 27 houses were destroyed and 47 others damaged in Khobel and Bibjan villages.

### Bahrain opens test-tube centre

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain opened its first test-tube baby centre Tuesday. Medical officials said 160 patients had registered for treatment at the in-vitro fertilisation unit at the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) hospital. Bahrain's unit is a joint project between the BDF hospital and the Arabian Gulf University and is associated with Lister Hospital in London.

### U.S. marine drowns in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — A U.S. marine assigned to the American embassy in Kuwait drowned last Thursday in the embassy pool, an embassy spokesman said Tuesday. "The sailor, while swimming at the embassy pool apparently struck his head on the side of the pool and lost consciousness. He was discovered on the bottom of the pool," the spokesman said. He cannot be named under embassy rules. The marine was pronounced dead on arrival at Amir Hospital, Kuwait's main medical facility. An autopsy will be performed and the incident is being investigated, he said. The spokesman said the man's name was being withheld pending notification of his next of kin. The Kuwaiti daily newspaper Al-Watan reported that the marine was thrown in to the pool by a group of colleagues during a children's party at the embassy. Al-Watan said the marines were called back to the pool by a child who noticed that the sailor could not swim, but were too late to revive him.

### Egyptian police detain poll candidate

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police have detained an election candidate and 17 supporters in the southern province of Assiut ahead of a key poll for the country's consultative Shura council, the Middle East News Agency reported Monday. The agency did not say when the arrests were made in Assiut, long regarded as a stronghold of Muslim fundamentalists. It said Montasser Quraishi and his followers, representing an alliance of the Labour Party, Socialist Liberal Party and Muslim Brotherhood, were held in the town of Dayroot. The 17 were held pending investigations into the distribution of pamphlets in the area. Interior ministry officials in Cairo were not immediately available for comment. More than 1,500 suspected Muslim militants have been arrested throughout Egypt over the past two months. Many are held under emergency powers introduced after the assassination of President Anwar Sadat by religious zealots in 1981. Elections for the shura council — which has no legislative powers but is part of President Hosni Mubarak's attempts to broaden democratic debate in the country — are due June 8.

### Turkey questions Iran on executed Turks

ANKARA (R) — Turkey is demanding details from Iran about why two Turks were executed in Tehran Sunday for drugs dealing, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. "At no stage of the apprehension, trial and execution of two of our citizens, have Turkish authorities been informed by Iranian officials," ministry spokesman Inal Batu said. Turkey knew of the execution of long-distance bus drivers Huseyin Sakiz and Ali Sumbul only from press reports, he said. Iran's official news agency IRNA said earlier they were among 19 men hanged in public Sunday. Four women were executed in prison the same day. "Turkey has demanded information from the Iranian Foreign Ministry," Batu said.

## Sudan relief continues despite attacks

KHARTOUM (AP) — Gunmen killed three people and seriously injured one in an attack on a United Nations-sponsored convoy delivering emergency food from Uganda to the war-torn southern Sudan, a U.N. official said Monday.

Diane Weathers, a spokeswoman for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said it was not immediately possible to identify the nationalities of the dead and injured "except they were not U.N. staffers."

Despite the attack, Van Den Top, director of the World Food Programme in Rome emphasised that food deliveries by trucks to south Sudan will continue.

Weathers said earlier in Nairobi

that United Nations officials had postponed emergency food deliveries by road between Kayo and Juba, through Yei as a result of the attack.

An ongoing airlift from Entebbe, Uganda, to southern Sudan regional capital, Juba, will continue, she said.

The convoy later proceeded to Yei, arriving Monday morning. It was attacked halfway between Kaya, a town in northwestern Uganda, near the border with Sudan, to Yei in southwestern Equatoria province.

Another convoy from Kampala, Uganda, was scheduled to depart Yei to Juba later.

**Train arrives safely**

Meanwhile, the first train in

liaison officials.

Both the government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) denounced the attack and relief officials blamed it on roving bandits.

James Grant of the United Nations Children's Fund told reporters in Khartoum Monday that the train will be the spearhead of another three trains and that the armed attack on it will not discourage relief officials from carrying on.

"We do take some risks, we will examine the circumstances but will not stop," he said.

In addition to the three trains, a barge is also scheduled to carry food to south Sudan beginning June 10, Grant said.

## Iranian rebel fighters put on alert

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iranian rebels in Iraq have been put on maximum alert following reports that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's health was deteriorating after surgery to stop intestinal bleeding a week ago, opposition officials reported Tuesday.

Hussein Mehdi, a senior official of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, told the Associated Press the movement's military force, the National Liberation Army (NLA) of Iran, went on alert Sunday.

The Mujahedeen claimed Monday that Khomeini, 86, has suffered a heart attack Saturday while he was recovering from

surgery in a Tehran hospital. Tehran Television said Monday that the revolutionary patriarch had suffered a "mild heart complication" at the weekend, but that he was recovering from the surgery he underwent last Tuesday.

Khomeini suffered a heart attack in 1980 and is reported to have had another one in 1986. Mehdi, the Mujahedeen's "foreign minister," said that Khomeini's death would be "an historic moment" that would dramatically alter the situation in Iran.

Mujahedeen leader Massoud Rajavi met with his military com-

manders at a base near the Iranian border Saturday and Majeed, who was Khomeini's designated successor, Ayatollah Hussein-Ali Montazeri, to resign after he criticised Khomeini's policies and the revolution's shortcomings.

Mujahedeen claim that hundreds of their activists and sympathisers have been killed in a widespread purge of dissidents in recent months.

Rebel officials have said that Khomeini's alarm at Montazeri's alleged connections with the Mujahedeen underlined the extent to which the Tehran hierarchy feared the opposition group.

The group, which registered as a political party earlier this year, was opposed to the free market economic policies supported by the association. The association has also backed Rafsanjani.

Rafsanjani, also acting head of the armed forces, is leader of the pragmatic faction that was re-building ties to the West to help Iran reconstruction after the eight-year war with Iraq.

Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini reversed that decision earlier this year by calling for renewed revolutionary fervor and unseating his designated successor for questioning the revolution's accomplishments.

The presidential post will take on added significance if the review panel supports an expected committee system to inherit Khomeini's role.

No candidate has emerged from the factions arrayed against Rafsanjani.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 771111-19

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel: 8111741  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel: 6327755  
St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590, Church of the Annunciation, Tel: 6374491  
St. George's Sales Church Tel: 61787, Terrassa Church Tel: 622466, Church of the Annunciation Tel: 6255141  
Anglican Church Tel: 625383, Tel: 625453, Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 771331, Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 775261, St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771751, Agam International Church Tel: 685326, Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 811295, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 815817, 821264

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be fair with the appearance of some clouds at low altitudes in the morning. Winds will be northwesterly moderate causing dust in the eastern and southern areas. In Aqaba, winds

Fair 03:54, [Sunrise/Dawn] 12:33, Dhur 16:14, Asr 19:40, Maghreb

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

#### EMERGENCIES

Min./max. temp.  
Amman ..... 14/26  
Aqaba ..... 22/35  
Deserts ..... 16/30  
Jordan Valley ..... 20/35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman, 40 per cent. Aqaba, 34 per cent.

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN: Dr. Adnan Zaghoul ..... 8981411  
Dr. Mahmoud Al 'Awad ..... 741391  
Dr. Hani Haddad ..... 77751  
Dr. Fekher Ballisi ..... 625778  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Al Asmaa pharmacy ..... 623675  
Najah pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 649493  
Shmeissi pharmacy ..... 637660

IRBD: Dr. Latif Al Shalabi ..... (—)

#### PRAYER TIMES

Fair 03:54, [Sunrise/Dawn] 12:33, Dhur 16:14, Asr 19:40, Maghreb

#### Jordan Electricity Authority

Electric Power Company ..... 636381

# A peasant priest crusades for the down trodden and poor

By Keith Grant  
Reuters

**NUEVA CONCEPCION, Guatemala** — In Guatemala's almost feudal countryside, scene of some of the worst violence in modern Latin American history, helping the down trodden peasants is asking for trouble.

Armed bands roam the countryside, intimidating peasants and pushing them off the land. In November, 22 peasants were tortured to death at San Andres Izapan, about 65 kilometres west of the capital.

A ray of hope for peasants in recent years has been Father Andres Giron, 42, a self-described social revolutionary who has risked his life challenging the oligarchy with a peasant movement he claims is now 250,000 strong.

Last September Giron escaped death in an ambush when gunmen stopped his car near Tiquisate, about 95 kilometres south of the capital, killing his bodyguard.

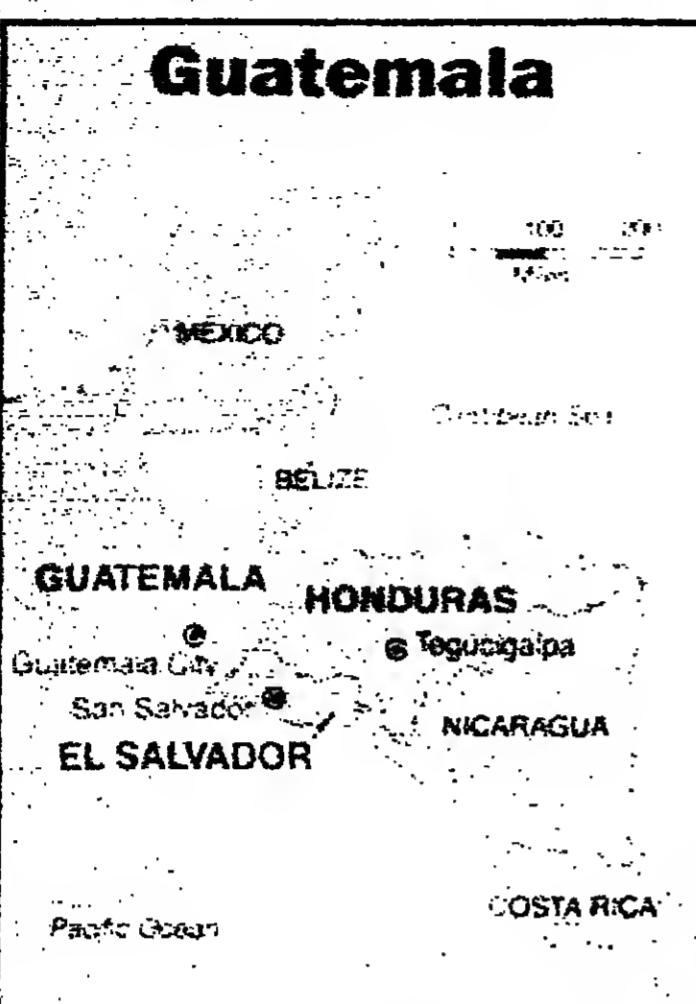
"I believe it was a warning," Giron said in an interview at his parish church of Nueva Concepcion, in the hot lowlands of the pacific coast that account for most of Guatemala's farm produce.

"They accuse me of being a communist and worse... it makes me fear all my efforts have been in vain," he said during a break in receiving the many peasants who come to seek his advice.

Giron has eight armed bodyguards who watch over him constantly. He would like his national peasant association to press for more land distribution, but acknowledges this is highly dangerous.

Guatemala is possibly Latin America's most backward nation as far as land distribution is concerned. About one per cent of the population owns 70 per cent of the land.

During the last century, much of the land belonged to the



church but it was redistributed among the wealthy elite. Now a powerful landowners' association, with army support, has prevented any attempt at land reform.

In 1954 elected President Jacobo Arbenz was overthrown by a military coup supported by the United States after he expropriated land belonging to the United Fruit Company, an event remembered vividly by Giron.

A Robin Hood is born  
"Tanks came to our door, they

were after my father. I remember some soldiers came and raped one of the women. From that moment I became a revolutionary," he said.

As a young man Giron was a follower of the American civil rights leader Reverend Martin Luther King, working in the black ghettos of Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1978 he became a priest in Colombia and subsequently was sent to work on the Guatemalan border with Mexico, often travelling days by mule to visit

far-flung mountain villages. It was here that he began to organise, eventually starting up a peasant bank before being forced in 1981 to leave the country by pressure from landowners.

He was sent to Rome to study Christian morals, and then to Oakland, California, where he was a junior parish priest for three years until he returned to Guatemala in 1986.

Vinicio Cerezo's election as president in November 1985, after more than 30 years of military rule, at first proved a turning point for Giron's peasant crusade.

In May 1986 he led 45,000 peasants on a four-day march to the capital, which led to his being allocated 12,500 acres of land around Nueva Concepcion.

Two of the lots, Malaga and Monte Llano, he is paying for over 20 years, while a third, San Jose, he bought with his own savings from Oakland.

A fourth farm was bought with a \$30,000 donation from Catholic priests in Graz, Austria. Each farm is autonomous and sets its own prices. They grow corn, sesame, papaya, peanuts and watermelons, and raise cattle, pigs, rabbits and poultry.

## Education is the key

There is a primary school, as well as basic medical assistance, and peasants receive instruction in theology, anthropology, sociology and political awareness.

Giron is now looking for \$250,000 in donations from the United States, but is finding the going tough.

"Only today I got news that some of our people were pushed off their land in San Jose. Two months ago one of our farm administrators was killed," he said.

Giron has few illusions as to his fate should Guatemala's fragile Democracy succumb to the military.

"If Cerezo had fallen a few days ago, the first one they would have picked up would have been Father Giron," he said.

On May 9 Cerezo foiled a coup attempt by disgruntled officers, the second in 12 months. After last year's attempt, Giron says all links with the government have ceased and he has had to tone down his activities.

He is convinced the fall of Cerezo's embattled government would spell disaster for his peasant movement.

"If there is another coup we will have just two alternatives — leave the country or take up arms," he said.

While sympathising with left-wing guerrillas, who have waged a 20-year war with the army that has left up to 150,000 dead, he rejects violence.

Born in the mountainous province of El Quiche, to the west of the capital, Giron knows the ways of the guerrillas. Until a fierce army offensive in 1981 they were active in the province but now number no more than 1,000.

More than 100,000 Indian peasants fled to Mexico during the offensive. Since then the army has sought to root out guerrilla support by setting up model villages and self-defence patrols which Giron says number 700,000 peasants.

He claims those that refuse to join are threatened.

A report to the U.N. Human Rights Commission in February said there were 60 summary executions between March and December 1988, down from 420 in 1987, but human rights abuses, especially against peasants, are still frequent, according to the U.S.-based Americas Watch Human Rights Group.

Giron refuses to give up but recognises there is not much he can do to win justice for Guatemala's peasants without courting violence.

"We will keep up the pressure, but it's very difficult to occupy land without arms," he said.



## Abortion — a matter of time and place

By Mary Beth Sheridan  
The Associated Press

Italians voted in a referendum to permit abortion on demand in the first three months of pregnancy.

Health Minister Carlo Donat Cattin, a Christian Democrat, has called religious groups and conservatives in calling for limits on the 1978 law. Pro-abortion demonstrators have counterattacked, protesting existing restrictions in the law they blame for a growing number of "back alley" abortions.

In Belgium, a 16-year battle to legalise abortion scored its first victory in May when two senate committees voted to allow abortion in cases of psychological or economic "distress."

But the measure is fiercely opposed by the dominant Christian Democrats, a Catholic-inspired party. The issue could bring down the coalition government.

In Western Europe, as in the United States, restrictions on abortion have not prevented women from getting them elsewhere.

For example, many Belgians travel to the Netherlands, where abortion laws are more liberal. Dutch hospitals performed 36,455 abortions in 1986, two-thirds for foreigners.

In the Soviet block and China, for example, abortion has reached high levels — one for every two live births in China — but it is widely accepted as a means to prevent unwanted babies. Even in overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Poland, the practice is widespread.

Between 40 and 60 million abortions are performed worldwide each year, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute of New York, a private research group that studies reproductive issues. The reason for the wide range is that many abortions — both legal and illegal — are not recorded, the institute said.

The Catholic church has been the principal force worldwide campaigning against abortion.

"The protection and defense of the human person — every person and the whole person, especially those who are vulnerable and most helpless: this is a task which the Catholic church, in the name of Christ, cannot and will not forsake," Pope John Paul II said recently, reaffirming the church's ban on abortion.

In the United States, church-backed groups have played a key role in a vocal and sometimes violent campaign against a 1973 supreme court decision that made abortion a constitutional right. The supreme court is reconsidering that decision, known as Roe v. Wade, and is expected to rule by late June.

## Western Europe

Abortion became legal in many Western European countries in the 1970s and early 1980s. But, as in the United States, legalisation has not eased the debate over whether it is moral.

In Italy, hundreds of thousands of protesters thronged the streets of the capital this spring in the biggest pro and anti-abortion demonstrations since 1981, when

while contraceptives were not generally available until the 1970s, said Jeremy Hamond, publications director of the London-based International Planned Parenthood Federation.

"When they did come in, there was a whole generation of women who had controlled their fertility by abortion," he said.

## Asia

Several Asian countries, including Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, outlaw abortion. Hong Kong permits the procedure only if it is recommended by two physicians. Malaysia bans abortion, but last month its house of representatives approved an amendment to permit it cases where pregnancy could cause a woman physical or mental harm.

Abortion is widely practiced in Japan. "It was like making an appointment at the dentist," said one college student who recently underwent an abortion in Tokyo.

Japan bans birth control pills because of possible side effects. The country's main religions, Buddhism and Shintoism, do not condemn abortion, and it carries no social stigma.

The health ministry says Japan had 17.8 registered abortions for every 1,000 women aged 15-49 in 1985. However, many go unreported, doctors say.

The Guttmacher Institute said the United States had 28 terminated pregnancies for every 1,000 females aged 15-44 in 1985, the most recent year for which statistics are available.

Abortion is a main form of population control in China, where more than 10 million abortions are performed each year — about one for every two live births. While there is some individual resistance to government pressures to abort unplanned babies, there are no anti-abortion groups. The main criticism of Chinese abortions came from the U.S. administration of former president Ronald Reagan, who is personally a strong opponent of abortion.

## Latin America

In predominantly Catholic Latin America, abortion is widely illegal except in cases where the woman's life is in danger or she is a victim of rape. There has been little or no movement to expand those conditions.

However, there are many illegal abortions.

"They're extremely common and maternal mortality is extremely high as a result," said Hamond of the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

In Brazil, there are about 300,000 to 500,000 abortions per year, almost all of them illegal, according to the health ministry.

In an exception to the regional practice, Cuba instituted legal abortion after the 1959 Communist revolution to cope with a population boom. It is routinely performed in government hospitals and free contraceptives are provided.

## Eastern Europe

Abortion is a common means of birth control in the Soviet bloc.

Even in Poland, where more than 90 per cent of the population consider themselves Catholic, an estimated one in two pregnancies is terminated by abortion — one of the highest rates in the world.

A severe housing shortage and erratic supplies of contraceptives contribute to the rate.

Poland's parliament is now considering legislation backed by the Catholic church to make abortion a crime. Both pro- and anti-abortion groups have held demonstrations.

In the Soviet Union, women average six to nine abortions each during their child-bearing years, according to Western estimates.

The country's top-ranking woman, candidate Politburo member Alexandra Biryukova, has complained about the high number and blamed a shortage of contraceptives.

Abortion was legalised in many East bloc countries in the 1950s.



"Children can start with what's called the 'paint box,' also on display at the gallery: the system includes a PC screen and in front of it a sketch pad with colour squares and special effects. Holding a sort of pencil called a 'mouse' you can draw and see your design appear at the same time on the computer screen; it can be modified endlessly and then finally printed with a small thermal printer."

Manipulate images  
Man's ability to create and manipulate lifelike synthetic images has already resulted in ethical problems, especially when photos are concerned: Scanners that feed photos into a computer's memory enable the user to alter the digitised photo so the pyramids of Giza disappear from the skyline, for example. The photo is printed, and you may not always be able to tell if it is true to reality.

Once considered admissible evidence in a court of law, photographs may soon lose their value in this domain.

For a sculptor or an architect, however, this system means freedom to look on the screen at a model from any side or distance, by rotating the form or moving it, and seeing how it fits in the surrounding area. From a computer-generated design, programmes can even calculate how much cement, steel and copper would be required to complete the work.

Are computers taking over? Are they sharing in the creative process? You may think so while watching a system Goodman included in the exhibit: operating on the principle of artificial intelligence, it can produce up to five large ink drawings per night, seemingly by itself.

(World News Link)

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Performances: 3:30, 5:30, 10:30 p.m.

## GCC focuses on privatisation

## Study analyses economic situation in Arab states

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Iraq's immediate post-war reconstruction will cost \$7 billion and long-term projects may total \$30 billion, according to a study released by the Gulf National Bank.

The study said that emphasis has now switched to managing and maintaining infrastructure, as well as development of health and human resources, housing, industry, minerals and other natural resources.

It noted, however, that defence, housing and power and desalination projects were kept up during the decline.

Some large-scale projects are still underway, with Gulf countries planning to spend \$5 billion on airport construction and related civil engineering projects in the next decade.

This year's Saudi budget allocated 35 billion riyals (\$9.3 billion) for health and human resources, more than 25 per cent of total spending.

That reflected the high cost of maintaining the kingdom's expensive health care facilities, schools and universities, in addition to communications, industry and petroleum operations.

The study also mentioned plans for expanding aluminium, oil and other industries in Bahrain, as well as development of Qatar's North Dome gas field, one of the world's largest, and a mini-boom in the port city of Dubai, possibly caused by the ceasefire.

"The contract market in the region is still considered quite sizeable by international standards," it said.

British contractors won Middle East contracts exceeding \$1 billion in 1988. American contracting and consulting companies won more work than in any other region, with total billings of more than \$370 million.

Average figures for 1974-79 were \$3.06 and \$7.46 billion respectively.

Meanwhile, leading Arab businessmen Tuesday focused on privatisation at a conference with 1,500 participants from the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations.

"This is the decade of privatisation. Many governments around the globe are turning over their state-owned industries to the private sector," said Abdullah Dabbagh, secretary-general of the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce, told the business conference.

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## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

## Jordanian fair in Tunis succeeds

TUNIS (J.T.) — Record sales have been reported from the fourth Jordanian industrial fair which opened in Tunis last Thursday, according to the fair's organisers. National manufactured products worth \$1.5 million were bought in the first five days of the fair which can sell directly to the public and various Tunisian organisations for up to \$2.5 million worth of products. More than 80 specialised Jordanian firms are taking part in the fair displaying and selling products ranging from engineering and constructional commodities to pharmaceuticals and foodstuffs and carpets, the organisers reported. Jordan and Tunisia are linked by a 1987 trade and economic agreement which provides for the sale of \$30 million worth of products annually to be divided equally between the two sides.

## Soviet bank gets Cyprus licence

NICOSIA (R) — The Soviet Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs is to open a branch in Cyprus, becoming the first Soviet bank to have a presence in the country, a central bank spokesman has said. The government granted an offshore banking licence Monday to the bank, which will be involved in trade financing, the spokesman said.

## Interflug to fly to Bangkok in July

EAST BERLIN (R) — The East German state airline Interflug will start flights July 1 to Bangkok via Dubai and Singapore using its newly acquired Airbus A310 passenger jets, the Berliner Zeitung newspaper has reported. East Germany agreed 11 months ago to lease three Airbus aircrafts made by a consortium of French, West German, British and Spanish companies.

## Kuwait buys Yugoslav arms

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's Defence Minister Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah Monday signed a contract with the Yugoslav government for "sophisticated military equipment" for the Gulf state's armed force, an official statement said. The statement issued by the ministry did not specify the type of arms covered by the deal, believed to be the first to be signed with Belgrade. Nor did it give the value. Kuwait has fostered political and economic ties with the Eastern Bloc since it gained independence in 1961.

## El Al reports \$18.8m net profit

TEL AVIV (AP) — El Al, Israel's airline, has announced that its net profit rose in 1988 despite a sharp drop in tourism because of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. Rafael Harlev, president of the national carrier, told a news conference that because of the company's improving performance, talks were opened with the ministries of finance and transport aimed at ending six years of government receivership and returning control to El Al's board of directors.

## Iran, Tanzania to expand relations

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran and Tanzania have agreed to start direct flights between Tehran and Dar Es Salaam, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) has reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the agreement followed a meeting between visiting Tanzanian minister of economic collaboration, Ameneh Salam Ali, and Iran's acting minister of commerce Mojtaba Khorasani.

## Japan raises interest rate but dollar stays high

TOKYO (R) — Japan said Tuesday it will raise its key interest rate for the first time in more than nine years, but dealers warned it may have to act again soon if it wants to rein in the surging dollar.

"It's very hard for the dollar to go down. There is nothing to burst it at the moment," said Takanori Makita, a currency dealer at the Nippon Credit Bank.

The dollar barely budged after news that the Bank of Japan will raise its discount rate by three quarters of a percentage point, to 3.25 per cent, effectively May 31.

The increase in the rate the central bank charges on loans to commercial banks was the first since March 1980.

The dollar has defied heavy selling by major nations and risen

sharply in recent weeks as high U.S. interest rates have encouraged investors worldwide to put money into the United States.

The currency is trading at around its highest level in more than 18 months against the Japanese yen and in 2½ years against the Deutsche mark.

The currency's resilience has prompted speculation that other central banks will follow Japan's move with interest rate actions of their own to stabilise exchange rates.

Some dealers said they expect the West German Bundesbank to raise rates and the U.S. Federal Reserve to ease credit this week in a coordinated effort to curb the dollar's rise.

Major nations have expressed concern that stronger dollar will

block efforts to put world trade back in better balance by making U.S. exports less competitive on world markets.

But Japanese policymakers seemed to downplay speculation of coordinated interest rate action by major nations.

Finance Minister Tatsuji Murayama said he does not expect the Japanese move to trigger interest rate increases abroad. And Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita added that he expects the Federal Reserve to take a cautious stance.

The Japanese economy has the ability to achieve continued

sustained growth," Sumita said.

But a top Japanese businessman criticised the bank for being too timid.

"The rate increase was... rather later considering... the weakness of the yen," said Takashi Ishihara, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives.

Toshiaki Kakimoto, chief economist at Sumitomo Bank, said the discount rate increase was not aimed at averting inflation but with coping with a weak Japanese yen.

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## CARACAS (R) — President Carlos Andres Perez announced a new trade policy Monday night that cuts tariffs dramatically in an effort to slash inflation and to make Venezuelan industry more competitive.

"Inefficient companies, oligopolies and the privileged cannot go on being financed by 18 million Venezuelans," Perez said in a televised address.

The measures, part of the government's austerity programme, include reducing tariffs next month to a maximum of 80 per cent for consumer goods and 50 per cent for raw materials, goods used in production processes and capital.

The cut in tariffs, which currently rang up to several hundred per cent, is likely to increase foreign exports to Venezuela, economic analysts said.

Perez said the government aimed to reduce the maximum

tariff on all goods to 20 per cent in March, 1993.

Companies will have to raise efficiency and product quality to survive and may no longer depend on receiving state subsidies that led to the creation of monopolies, he said.

Ernesto Navarro, president of Conindustria, a national federation of Venezuelan industrialists, has said the car assembly, engineering, chemical and textile sectors would suffer the impact of the measures first.

"We must reeducate ourselves as industrialists and direct ourselves to other (business) areas," Navarro said.

He said his new policy would take effect gradually to reduce its impact on businesses that were already making sacrifices under the government's austerity programme.

He rejected suggestions that the measures would create unemployment as inefficient companies went out of business, saying they should boost investment prospects and jobs.

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## African Development Bank celebrates silver jubilee

ADB President Babangida also stressed the pitfalls that lay ahead for the bank and the continent.

"The road ahead is difficult and challenging," Ndiaye said.

The ADB meeting takes place at a time of new initiatives to tackle the Third World debt problem.

French President François Mitterrand said last week that Paris would cancel official debt owed to it by 35 of the world's poorest countries.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady in March outlined a new initiative to reduce Third World debt. It is intended to help about 40 middle-income countries.

The Brady plan envisages a 20-per-cent debt reduction over the next three years through buying back debt discounted at between 30 and 60 per cent against guaranteed security.

"The results of debt reduction so far have been rather minimal," Babangida said.

"Unless a solution is found to the debt problem, development and economic growth will continue to be very difficult," he concluded.



Ibrahim Babangida

ment," he noted.

He called for understanding by foreign creditors on debt reduction and the need for lower interest rates.

"Recent proposals have recogni-

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PSD officers greet Prince Hassan during His Highness' visit to a PSD brigade Tuesday

## Prince Hassan briefs security officers on economic situation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday visited a Public Security Department (PSD) brigade and was briefed on the brigade's training programmes.

In a brief speech to the brigade Prince Hassan outlined the regional and international economic situation and its adverse effects on the Middle East

region as a whole. He underlined the importance of self-reliance and dependence on national potentials for development in the present stage.

PSD Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali made a speech outlining the brigade's various duties. Major General Salman Al Ma'aitha also briefed the Prince on the training programmes.

## ARA cleans Red Sea coast reefs

AQABA (Petra) — The Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) has embarked on an organisational plan for the southern coast of the port city designed to provide protection for marine life and coast environment and protection for the coral reefs within the Aqaba zone.

The announcement was made by ARA President Bassam Qaqish who said that the project entails setting up three marine reserves in cooperation with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature. Qaqish announced also that a centre for monitoring the environment and water pollution will be set up in cooperation with the Ministry of

Planning and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). He said that ARA is now involved in dredging the sea bottom in the gulf close to Aqaba port to clear the way for under water photographers and divers. The process he said is being conducted in cooperation with civil defence authorities and the Marine Science Station.

Last February, Qaqish announced the start of the removal of shacks and dilapidated buildings located along the northern coast of Aqaba because he said they distorted the city's general appearance and obstructed vacationers from benefiting from the beaches.

## Independence Day celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — As part of Greater Amman Municipality's celebrations of Independence Day, Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh Tuesday opened Ja'afar Al Tayyar garden, set at Tafeihel quarter in Al Nasr area on a 4-dunum plot of land. A number of olive trees

were planted in the garden Tuesday during a major celebration in which scouts took part. Rawabdeh Wednesday opens other new gardens at Yadoudah, Jawa and Khirbet Al Souq.

On the occasion, the municipality held a photographic exhibition at Salt Cultural Centre.

## Jordan, Soviet Union review joint cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Soviet joint economic and trade committee will convene in Moscow in July to study and follow up matters related to promoting bilateral trade, according to an announcement here following the signing of the minutes of joint meetings grouping Jordanian and Soviet teams.

The announcement said that the two sides reviewed bilateral trade and discussed Soviet technical training to Jordanians and also looked into a joint venture which will be set up in the Kingdom to produce phosphoric acid, employing primary materials produced in Jordan and the re-open-

ing of the Jordan timber factory in Aqaba with Soviet help.

The two sides discussed the prospect of opening Jordanian and Soviet trade centres and exhibitions in Moscow and Amman to promote the exchange of national products and reached tentative agreement on promoting tourism with the Soviet Union by organising Soviet group visits to Jordan.

Also Monday a visiting team from the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society signed an agreement here to promote cultural activities and to help Jordanian students acquire education in the Soviet Union.

## Soviet military chief leaves

AMMAN (J.T.) — Soviet Chief of Staff for Land Forces and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet land forces Demitri Aleksandrovitch and the accompanying delegation left Amman Tuesday at the end of a several-day visit to Jordan during which they met with a number of senior Jordanian officials and visited military and archaeological sites in Jordan.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hasma Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Ottman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ A photography exhibition by Sigrid Nenbert on "the Goethe-Forest" (near Dama Village between Tafila and Shobak) at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition by French artist "Olivier Mutillo" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of documents and photos depicting Jordan's history and development under His Majesty King Hussein's rule, at the Mafraq Youth Centre.
- ★ A photography exhibition by Haitham Juweishat entitled "Amman Under King Hussein's Reign" at the Salt Municipality Library.
- ★ An exhibition of cartoons entitled "40 Years Federal Republic of Germany" at the Goethe Institute.

#### FILM

- ★ A feature film entitled "The French Lieutenant's Woman" at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.



Air France's Airbus under maintenance at RJ maintenance workshop at Queen Alia Airport

## RJ maintains Air France's Airbus

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline is currently carrying out maintenance on a A-310 Airbus plane owned and operated by Air France under a contract signed by the two airlines, according to an announcement by RJ Tuesday.

Air France had agreed with RJ that the latter conduct maintenance on four of its aircraft at its workshop near the Queen Alia International Airport, a process which will be repeated every 15 months. The week long maintenance session is comprehensive and covers all sections of the fuselage, navigational system, electric system, communications

system and other areas, the announcement added.

Air France had earlier drawn up an agreement with RJ for the latter to carry out maintenance on aircraft engines fitted in the Airbus planes owned and operated by Air France.

RJ owns five Airbus planes which are currently employed on Middle East and North Africa routes.

The Airbus planes replaced the ageing Boeing 707's which the RJ operated in the past decade. RJ owns and operates a modern workshop equipped with all the necessary materials which are employed to provide maintenance

## Princess Basma urges early development of children's skills

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF) said Tuesday that effective education in the early childhood should focus on the children's areas of interest and should be targeted at enabling the child to discover his physical and emotional potentials. Addressing a three day symposium on drama in education, organised by QAJSWF in cooperation with the Arab Council for Childhood and Development's (ACCD) Research Centre.

Princess Basma highlighted the importance of drama in teaching small children with the ultimate goal of developing the educational process. "The use of drama in children's education enables them to identify patterns of conduct and serves as a mirror enabling the child to see himself and to discover the community's attitude towards him and its interaction with him in light of that conduct," the princess noted.

She pointed out that QAJSWF directs special attention to child issues because more than half of Jordan's population are below 15. Princess Basma thanked all participants and researchers for their contribution to the symposium, and voiced hope that the symposium would come up with practical results highlighting the importance of drama.

Taking part in the symposium are a number of educational institutions in Jordan in addition to representatives from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The organisers said that 13 working papers will be reviewed by the participants dealing with factors that help promote the work of nurses, occupational hazards which nurses face in the course of their work, training programmes for nurses, incentives for promoting their performance and nurse-patient relationship, among other relevant topics.

The participants from government, military and private sector's hospitals in the Kingdom will hear lectures and inspect an exhibition displaying various types of medicines and medical appliances and equipment which



Doctors, nurses and medical personnel attending Jordan's first nursing conference at Al Hussein Medical Centre in Amman

## First nursing conference

## 300 nurses discuss profession

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 300 male and female nurses from Jordan's hospitals gathered at the King Hussein Medical Centre Tuesday for the first Jordanian nursing conference.

The organisers said that 13 working papers will be reviewed by the participants dealing with factors that help promote the work of nurses, occupational hazards which nurses face in the course of their work, training programmes for nurses, incentives for promoting their performance and nurse-patient relationship, among other relevant topics.

Rashdan noted that to increase the number of nurses, two nursing training colleges have been recently opened at the University of Jordan and the Jordan University of Science and Technology to serve side by side the four other colleges that exist in the country and help the Kingdom attain self sufficiency in nurses.

A survey conducted last month

revealed that Jordan now has a total of 2,210 female nurses of whom 574 are non-Jordanians. It said that the Kingdom will need 4,000 nurses by the end of the century in the light of growing demand on health services and owing to the growing number of health centres and hospitals.

The figures were released by Health Minister Zuhair Maibas who said that the ministry plans to recruit and train the required number of nurses through its nursing institutes.

Last November a training institute to turn out much needed nurse tutors and instructors was inaugurated in Jordan. It is temporarily housed at Al Bashir government hospital in Amman, but will be moved to Zarqa once the construction work on the premises has been completed.

## U.N. helps in civil service reform

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two United Nations appointed experts in public administration and civil service will help the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) carry out a comprehensive programme to overhaul the national civil service system, a project which will be totally covered through a grant from the United Nations Development Programme, according to the CSC.

The commission's assistant director general Khaled Radaideh said that the two experts, Dr. Abdullah Zouhi from

Jordan and Dr. Omar Mousa from Egypt, will present a formula for reforming the national civil service system which will complement the work of a Royal Commission that was entrusted to conduct a similar task.

The new project, Radaideh noted, aims to promote and develop the existing system to attain the maximum efficiency and performance. The two experts will help re-organise job descriptions, introduce new techniques and methods in public administration work, and pave the ground for training personnel, Radaideh pointed out.



## Jordan Times

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## Unscrambling our priorities

IT was more than just refreshing to see and hear Jordan's highest leaders discussing the information system in the country and emphasising the need to bring about an overall change in presenting facts and issues to the reader-on-the-street. The very fact that His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan took the trouble to spend hours in an informal meeting with representatives of Jordanian newspapers as well as the state-run news agency and television and radio is an unmistakable pointer to the seriousness with which the leadership intends to clear air of the remnants of, well, let's say it, misguided information policies and scrambled priorities and hopefully herald a new era in the Jordanian press and official media.

It is no secret that the trend of reporting in the Jordanian media left a lot to be desired in the way of objectivity and presentation. More often than not, for assumed reasons based on unclear guidelines, the focus had been on personalities rather than events, as the King himself pointed out Tuesday. Coupled with the trend was a confused list of priorities, which, no doubt, frustrated many a reader as well as many a journalist. At the same time, judging from comments made by some journalists at Tuesday's gathering, it appears that it will be some time before some segments in the profession will actually grasp and absorb the significance of the message inherent in the frank and free exchange of views that took place. But then, old habits die hard and journalism is no exception either.

Mutual confidence between the government and the governed is the key to a citizen identifying himself or herself with the country. The media have the lion's share of responsibility in the process since accurate, unambiguous and objective information helps build that confidence and reinforce the sense of belonging and desire to be part of the nation-building process. In this way common challenges can be confronted with a united stand. "Restricted" reporting on issues of vital importance to political and economic developments in the country and region inevitably pushes the listener or reader to seek alternative sources, which are not necessarily accurate, do not present the national perspective on the event or issue at stake, and only serve to create alienation.

There is no escaping from the fact that there are indeed a multitude of domestic social and cultural issues which, for some obscure reason, have been left unaddressed — perhaps apathy on the part of the press itself since the subjects are not exactly headline catching or unfounded apprehension based on what is labelled as "sensitivity." It needs no imagination to realise that these issues, if addressed by the press in the right context and with objectivity, could be solved.

It is true in any Third World country that it is not a question of what the media present, but of how it is presented. Bad news cannot be just waved away with shrouded reporting. The meeting at the royal palace here on Tuesday was precisely the kind of morale-boosting exercise that was needed — it has injected a new sense of purpose to our media.

We are on the threshold of a new chapter in our information system. Let us slam the door on the past forever. Let us not misuse the opportunity at hand to restore our pride and credibility as responsible and trustworthy media which seek to serve the national cause by fairness and professionalism.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Tuesday described the new measures by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) as reflecting a bold and candid administration capable of revealing the truth to the public and re-establishing stability in the money market. The paper said that Dr. Mohammad Saeed Al Nahulsi was careful to present the facts to the public and to seek the Jordanian people's support and cooperation so that economic adaptation programme can achieve success. The paper lauded Nahulsi's decision to bring about a reduction in the rate of interest charged by the Housing Bank on housing loans to limited-income groups and said this was one of the fruits of the new administration at the Central Bank which has committed itself to working towards reactivating the national economy. It said more than 26,000 people will benefit from this small step alone, but more thousands and the whole country will benefit once the new measures had been implemented. The paper paid tribute to the CBJ for giving priority to specific groups like students and importers of basic commodities in providing sufficient foreign currency, and said that the measures are bound to re-establish confidence in the national currency.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily calls on the government to open the door for as many students as possible to enrol at Jordanian universities. Rakan Al Majali, who is also the paper's editor, says that this step would no doubt save the country a great deal of hard currency spent otherwise on the education of Jordanians abroad, and would give hope to more numbers of school graduates in acquiring higher education. The writer says that the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is to be commended for its current measures to provide badly needed foreign currency to finance these students' education but it should be noted that more money going out of the country means a drain on Jordanian financial resources. The writer also notes that parents of children studying abroad will find it hard from now on to gather sufficient amounts of foreign currency to send abroad in view of the soaring rates of foreign exchange against the Jordanian dinar.

Al Dustour daily described the new measures announced by the Central Bank as extremely important, coming in the course of the country's struggle to regain economic, monetary and financial stability. The paper said that linking the Jordanian dinar with a basket of currencies is bound to boost the dinar and help to re-establish confidence in the national currency. As the bank's governor said, the most important thing at the moment is to re-build confidence in Jordan's currency so that the expatriate transfers will resume, the paper noted. It said that once this is achieved the Central Bank will be in a better position to intervene in the local money market and prevent any destabilisation of the Jordanian dinar.

By Pascal B. Karmy  
Special to the Jordan Times

SINCE the acceptance by Iran of Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987 one year after its issue, in August 1988, there has been a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq but not peace. Negotiations for a final peace settlement between them have so far failed to achieve anything notwithstanding the energetic efforts of the secretary-general of the United Nations and his delegate Mr. Eliason. One of the chief obstacles in the way of a peaceful settlement is the conflict on the Shatt Al Arab waterway. Iran claims that its fluvial border stretches to half of the waterway while Iraq contends that the whole waterway should be under its sovereignty. Let us examine rather cursorily the geographical, historical and legal aspects of this problem.

### Geographical aspect

Shatt Al Arab is formed of the delta on the Arab Gulf by the two rivers the Tigris and the Euphrates. It is situated 75 kilometres north of Basra and extends to 218 kilometres between Al Korna and the Gulf. Its width ranges between 350 to 122 metres. It is fed by water from many sources such as from Huwayne near Al Korna and Al Karoun river. Shatt Al Arab is a vital zone to Iraq as it constitutes its only maritime exit to the south. It is the waterway which links Iraq to the Gulf as Iraq is landlocked in all other borders. Therefore any foreign power which occupies this waterway isolates Iraq and deprives it of its natural access to the Gulf. It is further more of vital importance for the economy of Iraq as it makes it possible for merchant ships to reach Basra.

### History of the waterway

It is not necessary here to go back to the ancient history of

## The Shatt Al Arab problem

Shatt Al Arab. Suffice it for our purpose to start from 1847, the date on which the Treaty of Ardroum II was concluded on May 31 of that year between the Ottoman Empire (which then ruled Iraq) and Persia as present Iran was then called. This treaty provided, among other matters, that the boundaries of the Ottoman Empire and Persia shall be fixed on the east bank of Shatt Al Arab. Thus the Ottoman Empire exercised full sovereignty on the whole waterway. However, the treaty did not derogate from the right of Persia to navigate its ships freely in Shatt Al Arab. But the dispute did not end there.

Through the intervention of Russia and Great Britain, the Protocol of Constantinople of Nov. 17, 1913 was concluded between the Ottoman Empire and Persia. This protocol enabled the Ottoman Empire to keep control of the waterway but gave Persia the eastern bank of the Shatt while Khodr island and its port near Abadan came under Persian sovereignty. This situation was inherited by Iraq following its independence in 1932. Subsequently Iraq declared that it was not bound by the previous treaties with regard to the fixing of boundaries of both countries relating to Shatt Al Arab. Consequently in 1937 a new treaty was entered into between the two states which kept Shatt Al Arab under Iraqi sovereignty. This treaty however, slightly amended the boundaries in the Shatt in favour of Iran but the latter was not satisfied with this concession, and following the establishment of the Republic in Iraq in 1958 the relations between the two countries deteriorated. Thus in 1969 Iraq unilaterally declared the treaty of 1937 as null and void and claimed its right to half of the waterway. The situation on the ground did not however change until 1975 when Iraq was forced

(under pressure of certain circumstances amongst which was the Kurdish rebellion aided and armed by the Shah and the CIA) to conclude the Algiers Agreement of March 6, 1975. The agreement was reached between Mr. Saddam Hussein then vice-president of the Revolutionary Command Council on behalf of Iraq and the Shah of Iran during the OPEC meeting in Algiers. According to this agreement and the subsequent protocols it was

agreed that the two parties recognise that the international fluvial borders on Shatt Al Arab shall be fixed on the basis of the Thalweg line and that no party shall act in such a way as to obstruct navigation in the Shatt. (Thalweg line means that states separated by a border river, jurisdiction over it is usually divided between the two riparian states in the middle of the main navigable channel and each half of the river is under the exclusive control of one or the

other of the two neighbouring states). The agreement provided also that certain Iraqi territories held by Iran should be returned to Iraq, particularly Zein Al Qaws and Seif Sa'ad. The three protocols which were concluded subsequent to the main agreement, concerned the fluvial borders, the territorial boundaries and border security. Paragraph 4 of the main agreement and article 4 of the protocol on the Borders and Good Neighbourhood of June 13, 1975 stipulate that the provisions of the agreement and of the protocols are indivisible and inseparable and therefore violation of any one of these provisions is incompatible with the spirit of the Algiers agreement.

### Cancellation of the Algiers agreement

On Sept. 17, 1980 Iraq declared the Algiers agreement as null and void on, *inter alia*, the following grounds:

- 1 - Iraq has not restituted Zein Al Qaws and Seif Sa'ad to Iraq.
- 2 - Iranian leaders openly interfered with Iraqi internal affairs.
- 3 - Iran supported the Kurdish Barazans against Iraq to foment a Kurdish rebellion in northern Iraq.
- 4 - In a nutshell, by words and deeds Iran has flouted the provisions of the Algiers agreement.

In terminating the Algiers agreement, Iraq relied strictly on its provisions and non-compliance therewith by Iran, as clearly indicated in President Saddam's speech delivered on Sept. 17, 1980 before the Iraqi national assembly. There is a recognised fundamental principle of international law known as the *Pacta Sunt Servanda* which enunciates that treaties are binding on the parties and must be performed in good faith. As Iran, whether under the Shah or under the Khomeini regime, did not

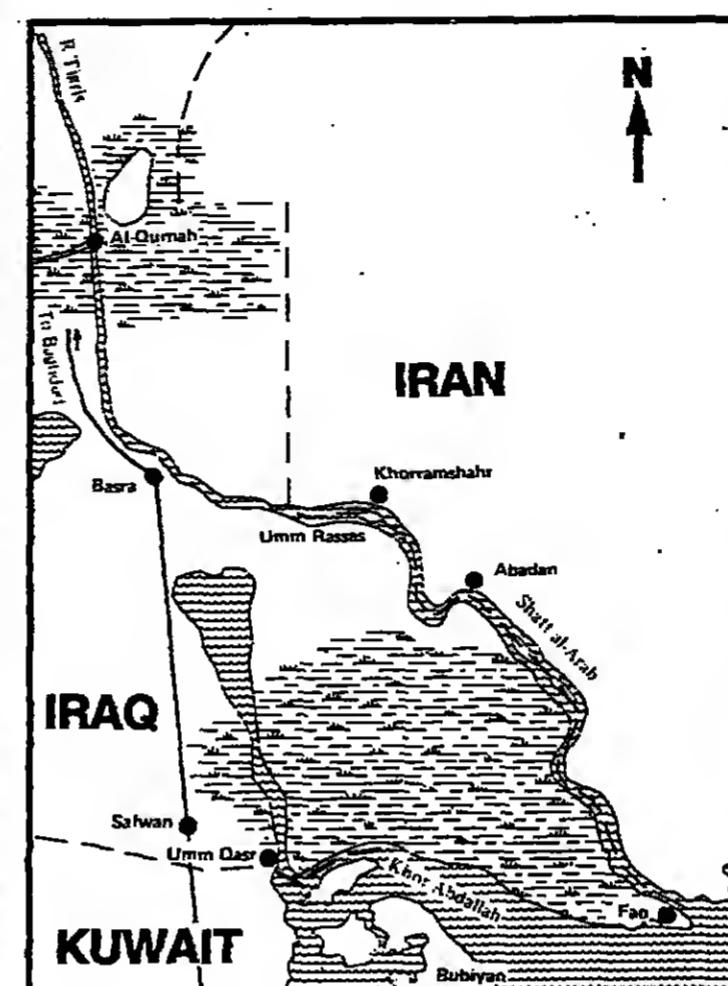
honour or execute the Algiers agreement as explained above, Iraq was legally justified in terminating it.

### The effects of the termination of the Algiers agreement

The main effect of the termination of the Algiers agreement was to revert both Iraq and Iran to the status quo ante 1975. Shatt Al Arab becomes, as it always was, an Iraqi national waterway under the sovereignty and control of Iraq. Iraq has the right to regulate navigation in this waterway and all ships entering it must hoist the Iraqi flag. The Iraqi authorities can publish civil and criminal laws applicable to the region. It should be pointed out that the termination of the agreement does not deny the right of Iran to use Shatt Al Arab but subject to the sovereignty and control of Iraq as was the case under Article II of the Treaty of 1947 and of 1937.

Presently Shatt Al Arab is blocked with ships caught there when the war broke out between Iran and Iraq in September 1980.

Iranian leaders openly interfered with Iraqi internal affairs. Iran still claims that the Algiers agreement of 1975 drawing the southern border between the two countries down the middle of the waterway (Thalweg line), is still valid. Iraq rejects this claim and contends that Shatt Al Arab was always an Iraqi waterway and will not accept its division as it is the only exit to the Gulf. But Iraq, according to its spokesmen, will ensure freedom of navigation for the Iranian ships in that waterway. Iraq is ready to abide by the U.N. Security Resolution 598 of July 20, 1987 and to conclude a final peace agreement with Iran but during the negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General, Iran has been using evasive and procrastinating tactics for the purpose of obtaining certain gains or advantages.



## South Africa: Israel's friend in need

By Jane Hunter

IN 1975, President Gerald Ford suspended U.S. aid to Israel during a "reassessment" of U.S. policy in the region. Shaken by that experience and by its increasing isolation during the mid-70s, Israel turned to South Africa and established a wide-ranging relationship extending to collaboration on nuclear weapons. Fourteen years later, as the winds of doubt begin to stir the U.S. Congress and a poll shows that 52% of the U.S. public has an unfavourable opinion of Israel (only 45% disliked the USSR), will Israel again turn to the apartheid state?

Although beset by budget troubles, South Africa is a wealthy country and, while it could not replace the \$3 billion Israel receives annually from the U.S., the white regime could probably increase its ongoing investment in Israeli military research and development and in the Israeli manufacturing, tourist, real estate and sports sectors. South Africa could not deflect international political pressure from Israel as the U.S. has done, but it could send troops and equipment to Israel in an emergency. And, being even more lonesome in the world than Israel, as a friend in need, South Africa would be reliable.

The catch for Israel is that the more openly it embraces Pretoria, the shakier Israel's standing in the U.S. will become — especially among African Americans and the other progressive elements that make up the Reverend Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition. For a number of years their resentment at Israel's support of South Africa has been quietly gathering force. In a recent speech to members of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York, Desmond Tutu, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, warned that relations between Jews and blacks will be strained until Israel "categorically repudiates" its military collaboration with South Africa. The world outside, as well as the U.S., will be watching.

Another indication of continuing military collaboration came last September, when a number of high-ranking South African military officers were sighted near Ramallah. It is likely they were observing Israeli combat in the intifada, rather than imparting advice, as some speculation had it. Since 1976 Israel has been advising South Africa's military and police in battle and counter-insurgency techniques and Israeli advisors have aided South African proxy forces, Renamo in Mozambique and UNITA in Angola.

In early 1988 Israeli advisors

were reported to be helping the South African Air Force implement techniques that Israel successfully used against Syrian anti-aircraft installations in 1982. South Africa was at the time (a fully year after Israel's pledge of no new military contracts) attacking Angola in support of UNITA. The subsequent defeat of South Africa by Angolan and Cuban forces using Soviet technology against South Africa's Cheetah aircraft, its Israeli-designed drone aircraft and its Boeing 707s converted by Israel to serve as in-flight refuelling and electronic warfare control centres, suggests that Israeli technology is not invincible and the arms industry

Israel helped South Africa develop is not the perfect answer to the international arms embargo. But where could South Africa have obtained anything better?

### Israel's meaningless sanctions

Economic collaboration has also been proceeding apace, even though a second set of Israeli "sanctions," propounded in September 1987, was supposed to limit this aspect of the relationship, known to be geared to deceptively exporting South Africa produce under Israeli labels and to helping Pretoria obtain embargoed goods. Last August a team from the Israeli treasury was reportedly scheduled to go to South Africa to renew economic agreements first signed in 1976.

In February it was revealed that Koor, the crisis-gripped conglomerate owned by Histadrut Labour federation, had taken \$80 million worth of loans from four South African banks to help stave off liquidation and that Koor was offering some of its divisions to sale to South African interests. In the course of these revelations Histadrut's frequently heard claim that it had divested itself of all its South African holdings was demolished as it emerged that Koor still runs a wholly-owned subsidiary, Aftra, an import-export firm in Johannesburg.

Following the visit in early February of a delegation from the pseudostate of Bophuthatswana

and the readiness of officers of such top Israeli firms as Bank Leumi and Clal to meet its members, it seems likely that Israeli investment in that bantustan will be increased. There have been reports over the past decade that the Israeli government provided weapons and technical assistance to the bantustans. Nonetheless, Israel doggedly maintains that it does not recognise the "tribal homelands" created by South Africa. It also tries to give the impression that it is against private business dealings with these centres of abject deprivation but as the *Jerusalem Post* recently noted, "making any sort of investment outside (Israel), whether it involves plain cash or moving equipment, requires the approval of the Bank of Israel's central bank."

The flow to South Africa of Israeli with high-technology skills or money to invest has continued unabated; there may be as many as 20,000 of them in South Africa, according to leaders of the South African Jewish community.

In the face of all this, Israel continues to claim that it is "passing out" its relations with South Africa, under its 1987 "sanctions." Later last year this line was buttressed by an assertion made by Wolf Blitzer, the *Jerusalem Post's* correspondent in Washington, which appeared widely in the American Jewish press: during a trip to South Africa to find out why only 15 per cent of the Jews fleeing that troubled land are going to Israel.

The assertion strikes those knowledgeable about South African politics as ludicrous: the blacks that have consented to go to Israel for training — mostly courses in "leadership development" — are issued travel documents by the South African government; they are not affiliated with the mainstream anti-apartheid organisations and the programme has been condemned by the African National Congress.

The uniformed might find this new line convincing. So might those who just don't want to know. However, the U.S. audience that once marvelled that a democracy like Israel could have such extensive dealings with the apartheid regime and accepted a delicately nuanced depiction of those relations, has been decimated by the intifada. As Archbishop Tutu said during his recent New York address, "if you changed the names, the description of what is happening in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank would be a description of what is happening in South Africa" — Middle East International, London.

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Military collaboration continues

That collaboration, the heart of the Israeli-South African relationship, has continued, despite Israel's pledge in March 1987 that it would sign no new military contracts with the apartheid state and would let its old contracts expire. Evidence has solidified over the past year that Israel is helping South Africa build a state-of-the-art fighter aircraft based on the Lavi, the U.S. funded aircraft which Israel cancelled in August 1987, six months after it promised to sign no new military contracts with South Africa.

Within days of Lavi's cancellation South Africa began hiring Lavi technicians. Less than a year later the *Johannesburg Star* reported that the technicians were believed to have played a significant role in the development of the Lavi.

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## Jordan's handicapped stage sports festival

The Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped is hosting an Independence Day Festival Extravaganza this Wednesday, May 31 at 6:00 p.m.

Activities will include exhibitions in sitting volleyball and blind goal ball. A wheelchair basketball game between the Jordan national team and the American volunteers from Ambassador College in this year's main event.

There is no admission charge and all are invited to come and take part in the excitement.

## Phillips wants Moses' record to add to title

SAN JOSE, Calif. (R) — Olympic gold medalist Andre Phillips would love nothing better than to break rival Edwin Moses' 400 metres hurdles world record — and he intends to do just that once his injured hamstring has healed.

"I wanted to go for it early in the season," Phillips told Reuters Monday. "But because of the injury it might be in August, but I still believe I can run under 47 (seconds) this year."

That would wipe out Moses's 1983 mark of 47.02 seconds.

Phillips said the two have not talked since the Olympics, when Phillips clocked 47.19 seconds — the fastest non-Moses time ever — and Senegal's Amadou Dia Ba finished ahead of two-time Olympic champion Moses.

"I thought he would have been happy that another American won the gold, but he never said anything," said Phillips, who had been chasing Moses for almost nine years.

"I don't understand that. He totally turned me off," Phillips said. "We stayed in the same

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### French take lead in Athens

ATHENS (AP) — France's D. Auriol with co-driver B. Occelli pushing their Lancia Delta HF Integral to the limit, clung to their slim lead Tuesday as the Acropolis motor rally began taking a heavy toll as it went into the third day. Auriol, after a grueling special stage early Tuesday on a gravel strewed road at the foot of Mount Pendeli near Athens, led with 2.26.10. Close behind was Massimo Biasion and T. Siviero in a similar car at 2.27.51. Only seconds and minutes separated the next three positions with Finland's Ari Vatanen and B. Berglund in Mitsubishi Galant VR-4 with 2.28.01 followed by Spain's C. Sainz and L. Moya in a Toyota Celica Turbo 4WD at 2.28.33.

### Top riders appeal against fines

GENEVA (R) — World champion Eddie Lawson and other top riders have lodged appeals against fines imposed after they pulled out of this month's rain-hit Italian 500CC motor-cycle Grand Prix for safety reasons. International motor-cycling federation (FIM) general secretary Guy Maitre said Tuesday the disciplinary committee would hear the appeals against the 2,000 Swiss francs (\$740) fines sometime in July. "All the riders fined by the race jury as a disciplinary measure have appealed. Four appealed individually, the rest made a collective appeal. The disciplinary committee must give them a hearing within 45 days. It will most likely meet in the second week in July," he told Reuters.

### Wales to close terraces for World Cup

GENEVA (R) — Wales have agreed to seating only for their European group four World Cup soccer qualifier against West Germany in Cardiff Wednesday. An International Football Federation (FIFA) spokesman said Tuesday that the national stadium was a rugby ground with unfenced standing-room areas which could invite pitch invasions. "While he would like to do away with fencing altogether, the FIFA decision after an inspection is for safety reasons," the spokesman told Reuters from FIFA headquarters in Zurich. "Alun Evans, secretary of the Football Association of Wales, has assured us that only tickets for the seated areas will be sold.

### Olympic winners run in U.S. college meet

PROVO, Utah (R) — Olympic champions Steve Lewis of the United States and Paul Ereng and Peter Rono of Kenya lead the field in the four-day U.S. college championships starting Wednesday at Brigham Young University. Ereng, the 800 metres champion who attends the University of Virginia, is a solid-favourite in his event while Rono, the 1,500 metres winner at Seoul and a student at Mount Saint Mary's college in Maryland, is a leading choice in the 1,500. Lewis, who won the 400 metres at Seoul, has been slowed by a hamstring problem for more than a month and the University of California at Los Angeles student could have problems winning his event if he is not fully recovered. The meeting also features the fastest runners in the world this season in the men's and women's 100 metres and the women's 100 metres hurdles. Jamaica's Raymond Stewart, a student at Texas Christian University, has clocked 9.97 seconds in the men's 100 and American Dawn Sowell of Louisiana State University has run the women's 100 in 10.93 seconds.

### FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1989

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pieron, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The shake, rattle and roll of the last few days changes, and people focus more on work and productivity. The overall overall, East cannot be allowed to gain the lead before a diamond is set up, because a club shift through the king could be fatal.

We would expect most good players today to make their contract. The solution is simple, yet elegant. Despite the fact that declarer holds a singleton heart, he should allow West's king to win the first trick.

Now the contract can be guaranteed if diamonds are 3-3 or if West, by some miracle, holds the ace of clubs no more than doubleton.

Suppose West shifts to a diamond. Declarer wins in hand, cashes the ace of trumps and continues with a low trump to dummy's nine.

He discards a diamond on the ace of hearts, cashes the king of diamonds and ruffs a diamond. When both defenders follow, dummy's long diamond is established. Declarer crosses to dummy with the king of spades, in the process extracting the last of the defenders' fangs, and takes the diamond for his 10th trick.

He can then lead toward the king of clubs in a futile attempt to score an overtrick.

Note North's raise to two spades. Although he holds an ace and two kings, his square distribution is a flaw and a simple raise describes his hand adequately, but he is mad enough for such action.

West led the king of hearts, and declarer's problem is obvious. He

has a sure diamond loser, so he cannot afford to lose more than two club tricks. Since West almost surely holds the ace of clubs for his vulnerable overall, East cannot be allowed to gain the lead before a club diamond is set up, because a club shift through the king could be fatal.

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He discards a diamond on the ace of hearts, cashes the king of diamonds and ruffs a diamond. When both defenders follow, dummy's long diamond is established. Declarer crosses to dummy with the king of spades, in the process extracting the last of the defenders' fangs, and takes the diamond for his 10th trick.

He can then lead toward the king of clubs in a futile attempt to score an overtrick.

Note North's raise to two spades. Although he holds an ace and two kings, his square distribution is a flaw and a simple raise describes his hand adequately, but he is mad enough for such action.

West led the king of hearts, and declarer's problem is obvious. He

has a sure diamond loser, so he cannot afford to lose more than two club tricks. Since West almost surely holds the ace of clubs for his vulnerable overall, East cannot be allowed to gain the lead before a club diamond is set up, because a club shift through the king could be fatal.

We would expect most good players today to make their contract.

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Soviet leader breaks custom to announce \$118b figure

## Gorbachev reveals military expenditure

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev acknowledged Tuesday that the Soviet Union spends 77.3 billion rubles (\$118 billion) a year for defence — nearly four times the last official claim — and promised military spending cuts.

Gorbachev also promised the country's new parliament that he would fight against bureaucrats holding back economic reforms aimed at improving the nation's quality of life.

In his speech to the Congress of People's Deputies, Gorbachev announced what he called "this real figure of military expenditures" — 77.3 billion rubles (\$118 billion) — and pledged to cut defence spending by 10 billion rubles (\$15.3 billion) by the end of 1991.

The traditionally secretive Soviet government has long concealed its true military expenditures, complicating East-West negotiations on arms reductions. As recently as last October, the official Soviet budget for 1989 allocated 20.2 billion rubles (\$32 billion) for the military, the same figure that had been used the

previous year.

In his one-hour and 35-minute speech, Gorbachev also:

— proposed creation of a special legislative commission to review the decades-old system of privileges for the Soviet elite;

— urged the deputies to grill government ministers and ambassadors, review all treaties and ensure the rule of law.

### Cool greeting

The speech was greeted coolly by one of the best-known legislators, populist Boris N. Yeltsin, who was added to the Supreme Soviet Monday in a deft political manoeuvre. He had been defeated two days earlier in his bid for election to the Supreme Soviet, but used a quirk in the election process to get appointed to the legislature.

"I was expecting something new, something entirely and radically new that would take into account the crisis state of society and the (Communist) Party," Yeltsin told reporters. "The slogan-making system doesn't work anymore."

Yeltsin has attracted a broad popular following with his outspoken campaign against the system of special privileges.



Gorbachev's address contained no direct response to U.S. President George Bush's announcement Monday of substantial cuts in U.S. forces in Europe and a call for swift East-West agreement on even deeper reductions by 1993.

## Uno faces challenge to premiership

TOKYO (AP) — Senior politicians objected Tuesday to the proposed appointment of Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno as Japan's new prime minister as the country grapples with a bribery and influence-peddling scandal.

Uno had been expected to be called back early from international conferences in Paris to be confirmed Thursday as the new head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and Friday as prime minister.

But after a series of meetings among party leaders, no call went out for Uno's return, and the political situation remained fluid.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who has promised to resign to take responsibility for

the influence-peddling scandal, wants Uno to succeed him. Party elders, however, have objected.

Former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki, with whom Takeshita met Monday and again Tuesday morning, told reporters that the Japanese public might not accept Uno because of his close political ties with Takeshita's predecessor, Yasuhiro Nakasone. Uno, 66, is a senior member of Nakasone's faction in the ruling party.

Nakasone was forced to quit the ruling party because of the scandal and compelled to testify under oath before a parliamentary committee about his links to the Recruit Company, the information conglomerate at the centre of the scandal.

The stock quickly rose in price when placed on the market, and those who received the unlisted shares reaped tens of thousands of dollars in profits.

Takeshita heard another objection to Uno from former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, who suggested Tuesday that the party should be ruled by a group rather than one person. Takeshita reportedly agreed to examine Fukuda's proposal and meet him again later.

Recruit is accused of trying to influence government policy by doling out millions of dollars in political donations and selling underpriced, unlisted stock shares to business and political leaders in 1986.

But the apparent lack of consensus on his candidacy made it possible that further consultations would be needed.

The head of the ruling party normally becomes prime minister because of the party's large majority in parliament.

On Monday, Nakasone resigned from the party to take responsibility for the Recruit scandal having taken place during his 1982-87 tenure as prime minister. He said he would keep his seat in parliament.

## BBC 'Soviet spies' report sparks uproar

LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party challenged the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Monday to explain why it broadcast a report that Soviet citizens expelled from Britain for spying had been trying to blackmail Labour members of parliament (MP).

Labour's Communications Director Peter Mandelson wrote to the BBC asking if it was true that the blackmail allegations were leaked by members of the MI-5 and MI-6 intelligence services.

BBC and newspaper reports last week said the alleged blackmail attempts were one reason why the government expelled eight Soviet diplomats and three journalists May 19. Moscow expelled 11 Britons in retaliation.

Labour legislators have alleged that MI-5 and MI-6 leaked the blackmail story in order to smear the party, which is campaigning to bring the intelligence services under parliamentary scrutiny.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe took the unusual step at the weekend of denying the ex-

pulsions were linked to attempted blackmail. He also denied the misinformation was leaked by the government.

Mandelson wrote to Tooy Hall, BBC television's news and current affairs editor: "There are many journalists in the BBC itself who are profoundly unhappy that television news should have gone along with what can only be described as an attempt to smear Labour MPs."

He asked Hall at what level the decision was taken to broadcast the allegations and whether it was true that no attempt was made to check them with the prime minister's office, the foreign office and the Labour Party.

A BBC spokesman said Mandelson's letter had not yet been received, but would be replied to in due course. The story was based on a background briefing by British sources, he added.

"We were satisfied the views were important and should be made public. We made clear throughout that they were allegations," the spokesman said.

## S. Korea rules out murder in Lee's death

SEOUL (R) — South Korean prosecutors Tuesday ruled out murder in the death of a student activist while more than 100 police and anti-government protesters were reported hurt in clashes overnight in the southwestern city of Kwangju.

Thousands of citizens and students fought sporadic battles with riot police long into the night, demanding the overthrow of President Roh Tae-woo and accusing security officials of torturing to death student Lee Chul-kyu.

Demonstrators threw broken paving slabs and brandished wooden clubs and steel pipes, witnesses said. Police replied with stones, chasing and attacking radicals with their protective shields. There were no reports of the usual exchanges of firebombs and barrages of anti-riot teargas.

Yonhap News Agency said more than 100 people were injured and several protesters arrested.

It was the latest in almost daily protests in Kwangju since Lee's body was found in a reservoir May 10. He was being sought by police on charges of pro-communist activities.

Tension ran especially high in the city because his death coincided with a commemorative period set by citizens to mark the ninth anniversary of an armed



'I LOVE THE SUN' — Stefania Follini greeting journalists in Carlsbad, New Mexico, as she emerged from a cave after an isolation experiment of more than four months last week.

## Testing begins on woman who spent 130 days in cave

HOUSTON (AP) — A 27-year-old woman who spent a record 130 days isolated in a New Mexico cave began undergoing a series of tests Monday that could yield clues about the medical effects of long-term space flight.

Early indications are that Stefania Follini, an interior decorator from Ancona, Italy, who volunteered for the experiment, is faring well despite losing seven kilograms and showing signs of lethargy and inattention during her later days in the underground Plexiglass home.

"At this point, all of the results have been normal. There is nothing strange that we have noticed, not even simple anaemia," said Dr. Andrea Galvagno, one of two Italian researchers

who have monitored her health.

"There is nothing at this point that would make me feel nervous about her health," he said, adding that it is still too early to tell what specific effects the long-term isolation had on her immune system.

Dr. Jon DeFrance, who is assisting in the research, said previous isolation studies have shown "a change in the immune function whereby a person might become susceptible to certain types of diseases."

"Of course, this has rather profound implications for a space flight," said DeFrance, an associate professor at Texas Medical School in Houston.

A weeklong series of tests will include a skin sensitivity test at

the Johnson Space Centre and a bone density examination at the Baylor College of Medicine here, researchers said.

Follini, whose sense of time became so disoriented during isolation that she emerged May 23 thinking the date was March 14, said she is still having a hard time adjusting again to a 24-hour day.

She glanced constantly at her watch during an afternoon press conference.

She said she felt healthy after her seclusion, despite losing weight and once going for three months without a menstrual cycle. Subsequently, she had three in less than three weeks.

## Philippine lawmakers star in anti-bases film

MANILA (AP) — Two Filipino lawmakers have stepped from the legislative halls onto the "Silver Screen" in a new film aimed at muster opposition to the six U.S. military bases here.

Senator Joseph Estrada and Representative Anna Dominique Coseteng, outspoken opponents of the bases, are finishing work on "In The Eagle's Claw," which depicts what they say are the adverse social effects of the bases on Philippine society.

Estrada, a former actor and mayor until his election to the Senate in 1987, said he decided to make the movie after realising that many Filipinos are not even aware of the presence of the

bases, much less what he terms their ill-effects.

U.S. diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, say Estrada's strong anti-bases position could become a major factor in the national debate on the installations because of his wide following among ordinary Filipinos.

Estrada said the film would depict such adverse effects as prostitution and U.S. political interference, which anti-bases advocates say continues because of the presence of the installations.

"Usually, people shy away from propaganda pictures," said film director Augusto Buenaventura. "This is an enter-

## Argentina under state of siege after riots

BUENOS AIRES . Argentina (AP) — Police guarded stores and public buildings in several cities Tuesday after looting rampages prompted President Raúl Alfonsín to suspend civil rights by declaring a nationwide state of siege.

At least two people were shot and killed, and a third suffered a heart attack and died during a looting spree Monday in Rosario, 300 kilometres north of Buenos Aires, said the government news agency, Telam.

Like a wave of rioting that hit Venezuela three months ago, the rioting was touched off by Argentina's economic problems. Inflation and unemployment are soaring, the country's currency has been repeatedly devalued and workers' buying power is shrinking.

Forty-one other people, including five policemen, were injured in the rioting in Rosario, where 600 people were arrested. Police said.

Another 300 people were arrested during looting rampages in working class suburbs of Buenos Aires. In the city of Mendoza in western Argentina, several supermarkets were looted Monday. In Córdoba, in the cen-

tral part of the country, a "hunger march" was staged. Police arrested 200 looters in Córdoba last week.

The looting, which began last week, was the worst since March 1976, when unrest prompted the military to oust then-President Isabel Perón in a coup.

Alfonsín's government, elected in October 1983 to replace a military dictatorship, was defeated in May 14 elections, in large part because of the country's fountaining economy.

Alfonsín "had no alternative" than to declare the state of siege, suspending civil liberties in order to preserve order and guarantee the property and liberty of citizens, and the right to work," Interior Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese said.

Pugliese, who until last week was economy minister, blamed the unrest on "ultraleftists" who want to cause anarchy." He contended that the looting was coordinated, police radio signals were jammed and pamphlets were distributed encouraging Alfonsín to resign immediately and workers to stage a general strike.

But leftist leaders denounced Alfonsín's decision to declare the state of siege — a measure that is

more comprehensive than a state of emergency — and blamed the disturbances on the president's failed economic policy.

"The way to calm people down is to grant an immediate salary hike of 100 per cent, index wages weekly, freeze prices and tell businesses and stores — on pain of confiscation — to deliver immediately food and medicine at the frozen prices," said Luis Zamora, a national deputy of The Movement Toward Socialism.

Many groups of looters were led by women and children, some of whom ate in the supermarkets before fleeing with food. One government official denounced the presence of women and children as a tactic "to avoid police repression."

The state of siege must be approved by Congress, which was scheduled to meet Tuesday afternoon. It empowers police to conduct raids without warrants and make arrests without charges any more specific than suspicion of wrongdoing.

Early Tuesday morning, police said they detained three leftist political activists in Rosario and accused them of carrying weapons, distributing pamphlets and inciting violence.

## COLUMN 10

### Stevie Wonder takes music to Prague

PRAGUE (AP) — The age of soccer stadium pop rock has begun for Czechoslovakia, as U.S. superstar Stevie Wonder began his "Peace Conversations" tour in Prague. "I never imagined people will listen to my music here," Wonder told journalists Monday night before his first concert. "This music speaks of love and united culture."

The tour kicked off in Munich, West Germany in April, and apart from Scandinavia, Greece and Australia, it takes the blind singer and songwriter to three Communist Bloc countries. Wonder played to thousands of Poles in Warsaw Saturday, and in an unprecedented move he let 50,000 copies of his latest album "characters" be distributed by Polskie Nagrania, the official Polish record company, donating all royalties to the Polish foundation for the handicapped.

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NATO laughs at itself

BRUSSELS (R) — Drunken, boorish, incompetent and lazy. No, that's not the Russian view of the Western soldier — it's how the fighting men of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) varied nationalities like to see each other. A colour cartoon has become a best-seller on the launch-pad of the NATO summit, purporting to reveal the national traits of the Western allies.

It says the only way to deal with the latest flood of arrivals, since June 16 last year — as of Tuesday 23,166 out of the total Vietnamese population here — as illegal immigrants to be held pending repatriation unless they can prove they are refugees under U.N. criteria.

It says the only way to deal with the latest flood of arrivals, most of them peasant farmers and fishermen from northern Vietnam, is to introduce forced repatriation, despite strenuous objections from the United States, the UNHCR and Vietnam, all of whom will be at the Geneva conference.

De Mello said it had been agreed last week that a monitoring group would chart the progress of policy adopted by the Geneva conference and make an assessment of its success by October.

"I believe Hong Kong would be satisfied by that first assessment and alternative measures may then be called for (by Hong Kong)."

Government refugee co-ordinator Mike Hanson was not immediately available to comment on de Mello's remarks, though he has said the ultimate solution to Hong Kong's increasingly difficult situation would be forced repatriation.

## Boat people face forced repatriation

HONG KONG (R) — Forced repatriation of Vietnamese boat people came a step nearer Tuesday as hundreds more flooded into Hong Kong, straining the British colony's resources to breaking point.

Officials said another 385 arrived Tuesday, bringing May's total to 8,207, one of the highest monthly averages. A total of 1,248 arrived in the past two days.

British soldiers were putting up large tents to house the newcomers and engineers have been preparing a disused army barracks at a crossing point on the Chinese border.

"After that, I don't know where they are going to be put. We've simply run out of space," said a refugee, aid official.

There are now 37,477 Vietnamese boat people packed into Hong Kong's camps, prisons and detention centres.

A senior Asian regional official from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sergio Vira de Mello, hinted it was possible the way might be clear for Hong Kong to introduce forced repatriation by the end of the year.

He told government-run Hong Kong Radio next month's meeting in Geneva on the boat people issue would consider proposals put forward by a working group that would include formally adopt.

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